

Message Text

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12

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 SAM-01 SAB-01 SCCT-01 /073 W

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R 061057Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6616

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE DAMASCUS 1308

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR SY EG IS US

SUBJ: SYRIAN PRESS REACTION TO "SECRET US PLEDGES" FOR EGYPT
ASSOCIATED WITH SINAI ACCORD

1. SYRIAN PRESS HAS OUTDONE ITSELF IN TWISTING RECENT
US-EGYPTIAN STATEMENTS RELATING TO SINAI ACCORD TO
"PROVE" THAT: (A) EGYPTIAN REGIME, WITH ISRAELI APPROVAL,
READY TO "ABANDON" SYRIA AND PLO IN CASE "SACRED
BATTLE" ERUPTS; (B) US DENIAL THAT IT PLEDGED "TO
RESTRAIN ISRAELI AGGRESSION CLEARLY MEANS
THAT US UPHOLDS AND ENCOURAGES THIS AGGRESSION";
(C) US DENIAL OF PLEDGE TO WORK FOR SECOND GOLAN
DISENGAGEMENT "MEANS US FULLY UNDERSTANDS SYRIA WILL
NOT ACCEPT CARBON COPY OF DEFEATIST AGREEMENT, PARTICULARLY SINCE DAMASCUS ANNOUNCED ITS POSITION TOWARD
TRAITOROUS AGREEMENT WHEN IT WAS IN FINAL STAGE
(OF NEGOTIATION)"; (D) WASHINGTON DENIAL OF PLEDGE
TO WORK FOR PALESTINIAN PARTICIPATION IN NEGOTIATIONS
CLEARLY REFLECTED IN US VETO AT RECENT SECURITY

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COUNCIL SESSION.

2. ONE COLUMNIST NOTED THAT "ISRAELI SO-CALLED DEFENSIVE MEASURES" WERE IN FACT AIMED AT SYRIANS AND PALESTINIANS IN ORDER TO ASSIST EGYPTIAN REGIME'S CAPABILITY TO RESIST ARAB PRESSURES. SADAT'S "AFFIRMATION OF NON-ASSISTANCE" TO SYRIA IF WAR BROKE OUT WITH ISRAEL DIRECT RESULT OF SITUATION CREATED BY STATIONING OF US EARLY WARNING OUTPOSTS IN SINAI. HE CONCLUDED, "THE EGYPTIAN REGIME PUROSELY HANDCUFFED ITSELF SO AS TO JUSTIFY NON-ASSISTANCE TO SYRIA." ANOTHER COLUMNIST ANALYZED PLEDGES AND CONCLUDED, "SADAT'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF ALLEGED PLEDGES AND WASHINGTON'S DENIAL MEAN THE BEGINNING OF A NEW PHASE OF PLOTTING AGAINST THE ARAB CAUSE UNDER THE HEADING OF ENDING THE STATE OF BELLIGERENCY."

3. COMMENT: SYRIAN PRESS HAS DISTORTED SADAT'S COMMENTS IN MOST SELF-SERVING MANNER TO PROMOTE OFFICIAL SARG CLAIM THAT EGYPTIAN REGIME WAS WEAKENED BY SINAI ACCORD AND NOW MUST RELY ON ISRAELIS TO HELP IT WITHSTAND PRESSURE FROM ARABS WHO HAVE OPPOSED AGREEMENT.
MURPHY

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